

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 COME-00 ISO-00

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R 071233Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1212

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NY

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PASS DAVID PARKER, DEPT OF COMMERCE (USTS)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG OCON WTO TW

SUBJECT: REPUBLIC OF CHINA ISSUE AT WTO FIRST ASSEMBLY TO BE
HELD IN MADRID

REF: GENEVA 1491

SUMMARY. WTO SYG LONATI CONCERNED THAT CHINA WILL SURFACE AT
FORTHCOMING ASSEMBLY MAY 12, EITHER AS CREDENTIALS QUESTION OR
ON BROADER ISSUE OF WHO PROPERLY REPRESENTS CHINA, OR BOTH.
MISSION WONDERS IF DEPT HAS ANY ADVICE IT MIGHT PASS LONATI RE
PRE-ASSEMBLY STEPS SYG MIGHT TAKE TO DOWNPLAY ISSUE, AND
RECOMMENDS THAT, IN ANY CASE, USDEL BE FULLY BRIEFED ON POSTURE
TO ASSUME AT MAY WTO ASSEMBLY SHOULD CHINA ISSUE ARISE. END
SUMMARY.

1. THE IMPLICATIONS OF REPUBLIC OF CHINA MEMBERSHIP IN WTO AS
WELL AS OF THE POSSIBLE ATTENDANCE OF A ROC DEL AT THE FIRST
WTO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MADRID ON MAY 12 WEIGH HEAVILY ON THE
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MIND OF WTO SYG LONATI.

2. FIRSTLY, HE FEELS THAT IF A ROC DEL DOES IN FACT ATTEND THE FIRST WTO ASSEMBLY THE LATTER'S CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE WILL PROBABLY REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE DEL'S CREDENTIALS AND MAY WELL CALL FOR ASSEMBLY IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 34 OF THE WTO STATUTES, WHICH PROVIDES FOR SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE.

3. AS BACKGROUND LONATI RECOUNTED THAT ON NOVEMBER 5, 1973, AS SYG OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OFFICIAL TRAVEL ORGANIZATIONS (IUOTO), NON-GOVERNMENTAL PREDECESSOR ORGANIZATION OF THE WTO, HE HAD WRITTEN WELLINGTON TSAO, ROC DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TOURISM, INFORMING HIM THAT THE 23RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IUOTO HELD AT CARACAS IN OCTOBER 1973, HAD DECIDED THAT ROC TOURISM BUREAU NO LONGER MET IUOTO MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT. ACCORDINGLY WHEN TSAO RECEIVED SYG LONATI'S INVITATION TO JANUARY 1975 TO ATTEND FIRST ASSEMBLY OF WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION HE WAS SURPRISED AND IN A LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 1, 1975, REQUESTED WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF INVITATION. LONATI SAID HE PLANNED TO REPLY TO TSAO STATING THAT AS ROC IS FULL MEMBER OF WTO-HAVING DEPOSITED ITS RATIFICATION OF WTO STATUTES WITH SWISS GOVERNMENT IN 1974-IT IS ENTITLED TO INVITATION TO ATTEND FIRST WTO ASSEMBLY.

4. DESPITE THIS INTENDED LETTER, HOWEVER, LONATI REPORTED THAT WHILE HE WAS ATTENDING JOINT WTO/IATA SEMINAR IN MANILA THIS FEBRUARY HE CALLED ON AN OFFICER OF ROC EMBASSY THERE AND DISCUSSED PROBLEMS RAISED BY ROC DEL ATTENDING FIRST ASSEMBLY AS WELL AS BY ROC MEMBERSHIP IN WTO. HE NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF ROC MEMBERSHIP WTO CANNOT NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH EITHER UN OR UNDP AND CANNOT USE UN BUILDINGS FOR MEETINGS. HE ALSO CITED POSSIBLE IMPLICATION OF ARTICLE 34 OF WTO STATUTES FOR ROC. HIS PURPOSE WAS TO FORESTALL ROC ATTENDANCE AT FIRST WTO ASSEMBLY DESPITE HIS FORMAL INVITATION.

5. AS FURTHER BACKGROUND, LONATI NOTED THAT THE ROC HAD BECOME A MEMBER OF IUOTO IN OCTOBER 1958, WELL AFTER THEIR GOVERNMENT'S RE-ESTABLISHMENT ON TAIWAN IN 1949. HE SAID THAT DURING PERIOD AFTER OUSTING OF ROC FROM IUOTO IN OCTOBER 1973 AND UNTIL ROC FORMALLY JOINED WTO IN 1974, LONATI HAD HAD SEVERAL CONVER-

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SATIONS WITH CHIEF OF PRC MISSION IN GENEVA AND HAD FOUND PRC ANXIOUS TO JOIN WTO SINCE PROMOTION OF TOURISM WAS PRC OBJECTIVE. LONATI NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT MOMENT ROC FORMALLY JOINED WTO PRC MISSION INDICATED THEY COULD HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO DO WITH HIM OR WTO UNTIL THE ROC HAD BEEN OUSTED FROM ORGANIZATION.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON FOLLOWING:

A. IS THERE ANY ADVICE, EVEN UNOFFICIAL, THAT COULD BE OFFERED SYG LONATI (1) FOR HIS REPLY TO TSAO IN TAIPEI; AND

(2) ON STEPS HE MIGHT TAKE PRIOR TO CONVENING OF FIRST ASSEMBLY TO FORESTALL OR LIMIT DAMAGE WHICH COULD BE CAUSED BY THIS ISSUE?

B. IF IT IS DECIDED THAT US MISSION SHOULD DO NOTHING ON THIS QUESTION PRIOR TO CONVENING OF ASSEMBLY, IT IS RECOMMENDED DEPT PREPARE GUIDANCE ON HOW USDEL SHOULD VOTE AND EXPLAIN ITS VOTE ON A) CREDENTIALS OF ROC DEL TO ASSEMBLY; AND B) SUSPENSION OF ROC MEMBERSHIP UNDER PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 34 OF WTO STATUTES. DALE

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